

into abandonment, political or economic. The alternative to abandonment is engagement.

We can help Haiti overcome its brutal history and enter a new period of peace and prosperity. It will not happen overnight, but without the commitment of the private and public sectors, it will not happen at all.

Ten years ago, the poor of Port-au-Prince whitewashed their city walls, emblazoned them with the insignia of President Aristide's party, and cheered as their president-elect rode to his inauguration.

The second Aristide government is poised to accept the world's help to build a new Haiti. Turning our backs will simply create a new crisis. The Haitian people possess vast resources of spirit and ingenuity. Unleashing their economic potential will build a stronger nation, create new partnerships in the region, and redeem the promise of democracy so long desired to Haiti.

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IN HONOR OF JOAN MATULA ON  
THE OCCASION OF HER 90TH  
BIRTHDAY

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**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2001*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Ms. Joan Matula, who

celebrates her 90th birthday this weekend on February 19, 2001. Ms. Matula leads a rich and wonderful life and contributes greatly to the community in which she lives. She is a model of civic virtue and community leadership and a beacon of hope for all of us who desire greater participation in the public sphere where the concerns of the many come before the demands of the few.

Ms. Matula is a founder, a stalwart member, and a great leader of the Roosevelt Island Seniors Association (RISA). Founded in 1976, RISA brings the Roosevelt Island senior community together to make the island a better place to live and to enjoy the company of neighbors.

As a co-founder of RISA in 1976, Ms. Matula has served in many capacities, including service as the organization's president for four terms and vice-president for two terms. She knows well the needs of the senior community on Roosevelt Island and the best approaches to meet those needs. Believe me Mr. Speaker, Roosevelt Island has seldom, very seldom witnessed a seniors event, or even a general island activity, parade or public event that Ms. Matula has not attended. She literally ran the senior center for six years and has represented RISA at the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RRA) since 1977, bringing the concern of the seniors to the attention of leading figures in the community.

Ms. Matula has been involved in Roosevelt Island community concerns since the beginning. She worked at the Goldwater hospital as a medical secretary until her retirement in 1976. While there Ms. Matula helped residents improve and maintain their health on numerous occasions. She even led the Roosevelt Island nutrition program for eight years, focusing on the prevention of illness and the health of everyone on the island.

Joan has always cared about her country and has consistently participated in the electoral process. She served as a member of the New York City election Board for 20 years and encouraged Roosevelt Island residents to vote in numerous elections.

Ms. Matula is truly a remarkable person. She is always there whenever there is an event to promote on Roosevelt Island or an idea upon which to build. I consider Joan a very dear friend and, as many residents of Roosevelt Island know, to know Joan is to love her. Mr. Speaker, I salute the life and work of Joan Matula and I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing the contributions she has made to the community of Roosevelt Island, to the great City of New York and to our country.